

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Community Soup Kitchen of Morristown and Outreach Center as they celebrate 25 dedicated years of service.

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL ARTS  
IN THE SCHOOL DAY

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to National Arts in the School Day. This great program gives young people the opportunity to experience and be exposed to art of all kinds. Last year, six schools in Port Chester, New York opened their doors to 35 guest artists who shared their work with students from kindergarten through 12th grade, and I am pleased that schools will be participating again this year on April 15th.

Research has shown that arts education is closely linked to academic achievement, social and emotional development, civic engagement, and equitable opportunity. Experiencing art can connect people more deeply to the world around them, encourage students to be open to new perceptions of the world, and create foundations for social bonds and community cohesion.

I encourage all schools around the country to celebrate the arts on National Arts in the School Day. Through projects large or small—school-wide performances or even inviting local artists to help children appreciate art in all forms—we can raise awareness of the importance of art and art appreciation and renew our commitment to arts education.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF GIRLS ON THE  
RUN OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia and to congratulate them on the occasion of their 10th Anniversary.

All of us who have a daughter or niece, or even know a young or pre-teen girl, understand very well the difficulties that many experience on their journey to adulthood. Peer pressure, the media, and other external influences can often cause our young daughters to feel inadequate or simply not good enough. Girls on the Run seeks to address this issue by encouraging healthy choices and instilling confidence that all girls belong “just the way they are.”

Girls on the Run was originally founded in 1996 by Molly Barker, a four-time Hawaii Ironman triathlete to celebrate the gifts of girlhood and fight what she calls “Girl-Box” issues. Girl-Box is a place where girls and young teens are valued more for their outward appearance than their character inside. This can result in low self-esteem and a distorted body image which have been linked to eating disorders, teen pregnancy and substance

abuse. Girls on the Run focuses on the development of a healthy, positive self-image and strives to empower all girls to have a strong sense of identity, resist peer pressure, stand up for themselves in a healthy manner, and understand their importance as individuals and as part of the larger community. In just 15 years, Girls on the Run now serves over 60,000 girls annually throughout the United States and into Canada.

Girls on the Run came to Northern Virginia in 2001 and initially had only 2 sites serving 27 girls. In 2010, Girls on the Run of NOVA, as the largest chapter in the national organization, will offer over 200 programs in 172 locations and serve more than 6,000 girls. Based out of public and private schools in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties as well as the cities of Alexandria, Manassas, Manassas Park, Fairfax City and Falls Church, Girls on the Run NOVA reaches across all ethnic, racial and socio-economic lines. No girl is ever denied because of inability to pay the modest fees assessed for this program—financial aid is offered to qualifying individuals. In 2008 over one-third of all participants received financial assistance.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia on the occasion of their 10th Anniversary and also in thanking them for their commitment to instilling self-respect and dignity to all of our daughters in Northern Virginia.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4992

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the First Responders Protection Act to better protect the men and women who risk their lives every day on our behalf from the financial hardship related to potentially frivolous lawsuits. Too often, first responders can be forced to deplete their savings, put their own homes in jeopardy or sacrifice their retirement to pay for legal counsel to defend themselves.

The First Responders Protection Act gives employers the authority to provide financial assistance for employees facing litigation after certain events that occur when performing their jobs. This bill would not override the comparable policies that some States already have in place, and it would offer assistance to any States to implement one.

Upon review by attorneys and law enforcement experts, H.R. 413, which I previously supported, simply went too far without fully addressing this real issue affecting these men and women. My legislation, the First Responders Protection Act, is more narrowly crafted to keep first responders and their families from being financially drained as a result of frivolous lawsuits. I urge its passage in lieu of the previous bill.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE  
AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Whereas, the American Hellenic Institute was founded in 1974 with a commitment to upholding fairness and justice for the people of Greece and Cyprus;

Whereas, the American Hellenic Institute has sponsored education initiatives to promote peace and mutual understanding between peoples;

Whereas, the American Hellenic Institute has increased cultural awareness and preservation for Greek-Americans and Hellenic people across the world;

Whereas, the American Hellenic Institute has steadfastly worked for the reunification of Cyprus;

Whereas, the American Hellenic Institute has stood by the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople;

Whereas, the American Hellenic Institute has worked tirelessly to improve U.S. foreign relations with the people of Greece and Cyprus: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That as a proud Greek American, I commend the American Hellenic Institute for its principled commitment to the causes important to Hellenic people across the world, and in honor of the 189th year of Greek Independence, I stand firmly behind the American Hellenic Institute's efforts to represent the interests and values of Hellenic people everywhere.

LADYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 2010*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Ladywood High School, Catholic college preparatory school in the Felician/Franciscan tradition, as they celebrate their 60 years of educating young women in my hometown of Livonia, Michigan.

Named for the beautiful wooded property on which it is located, Ladywood was dedicated to Our Lady under her title Our Lady of the Woods and opened its doors to 45 students on September 11, 1950. The first commencement was celebrated on June 7, 1953, with a graduating class of 12 young women. Having been continually accredited since 1951, Ladywood now educates young ladies from 40 communities, 5 counties and 50 zip codes.

Ladywood was chosen as an “Outstanding American High School” by U.S. News and World Report and is recognized by the American College Testing Education Division for exceeding national performance scores while matriculating 99 to 100 percent of her graduates to colleges and universities. The State of Michigan and the Wayne County Department of Environment have designated the Ladywood High School as an Official Michigan Green School.